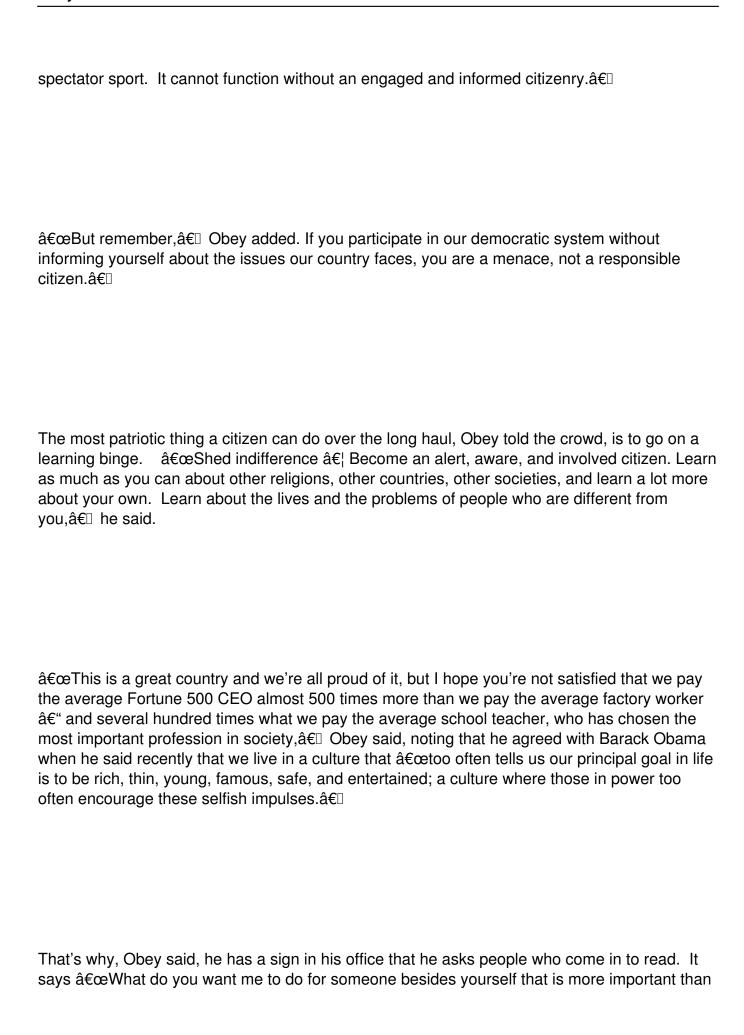
Obey Offers Advice To SPASH Grads
05/27/2007
Obey OFFERS ADVICE TO SPASH GRADUATES
Tells Students: Nation Needs You To Be Idealistic, Informed Citizens
STEVENS POINT, WI â€" Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) addressed the graduating class at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School commencement ceremonies today, congratulating seniors and telling them the country needs them to be idealistic, informed citizens to deal with the challenges ahead.
"The events of September 11 have already changed your world in ways you never dreamed of. Those events should tell you that your education is not ending; it's just begun!â€□ Obey told the graduates. "In dealing with this new reality, your country will face difficult and complicated questions. Your leaders cannot make those decisions alone. Democracy is not a



whatever it is you want me to do for you?â€□
"We can do better I hope you will be part of the effort to change things like that,â€□ Obey challenged the graduates. "If you are looking for ways to express your patriotism – if you want to do more than simply wave the flag in a soon-forgotten celebration – we all need to spend a lot less time thinking about â€~me' and a lot more time thinking about â€~we'.â€□
"And when election time comes around, do yourself a favor,â€□ Obey added. "Don't choose leaders who offer you easy solutions or who promise the most to you. Look for those who ask the most of you.â€□
In their personal lives, Obey told the graduates to remember that making a living is not that same thing as living. "Discover what gives you enjoyment, peace, and satisfaction,â€□ he said. "Be as ambitious about discovering who you really are and what you really care about as you are about getting ahead professionally. In life, the trip is as important as the destination.â€□
Obey concluded by noting that there are two kinds of people in the world – givers and takers. "The best way to feel good about yourself in your own life is not to see how much you can get out of life, but to see how much you can put into it,â€□ he said "That's life's true reward.â€□

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\* \* READ FULL SPEECH HERE \* \*